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Funding Social Change Since 1967

RESIST

Celebrating 30 Years

A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

July/August 1997

Countering Pentagon Propaganda

Activists Confront Recruiters, Promote Alternatives to Military for Youth

RICK JAHNKOW

In communities all across the U.S., dedicated social change activists are working on a wide range of political, social and environmental issues. They face a number of organizing challenges and difficulties, but often the main one is finding effective ways to address problems that are deeply rooted in society. It is relatively easy to focus on manifestations of social problems—the objectionable behavior of individuals and institutions that can be easily identified and confronted—but in order to bring about lasting change, attention must also be paid to the values and attitudes in society which give rise to the problematic behavior.

This is why some social change activists, both young and old, are now looking more closely and with great alarm at the growing effort by the Pentagon to become involved in young people's lives. At issue is not just the welfare of individuals who enlist, or the ethics of training people to kill. The Pentagon's youth outreach is intended to do much more than simply identify recruitment prospects and sign them up as soldiers. It is also designed to affect—some would say control—the future by influencing the values and attitudes of today's younger generation.

Ample evidence of this can be seen in such developments as the military's push for "partnerships" with local schools, ex-



A California high school student inspects a weapon displayed during a career fair by military recruiters in 1988. Photo courtesy of Project YANO

pansion of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program, and the proliferation of military ads and propaganda designed to popularize militaristic values (a prime example being the Marine Corps television advertisement featuring a "White Knight"). Tanks are even being brought to elementary schools for children to crawl through, although, obviously, not many first graders would meet enlistment requirements. At one San Diego area primary school, a Navy recruiter dressed as Santa

Claus gave children bags of "goodies" that later turned out to be posters, stickers and school supplies emblazoned with military symbols and slogans. In the future, these kids will have an insidious subliminal connection between a season of goodwill and the military.

JROTC Recruitment

Perhaps the most blatant example of how the military is using young people to influence a very wide range of social issues is the JROTC program. This military-designed curriculum is taught to hundreds of thousands of high school students, allegedly to instruct them in citizenship, responsibility,

and leadership skills. In reality, it exposes them to subjective political viewpoints and authoritarian values, and further encourages students to spread these "lessons" in their other classes and the community.

JROTC textbooks address such topics as history, civics, the Constitution, foreign policy, ethics, religion, health, affirmative action, and even gun control. The following excerpts illustrate the biased and sometimes inflammatory nature of the curriculum:

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Military recruiters entice students with a tank during "Alternatives Day" at Patrick Henry High School in San Diego, CA. Photo by Dave Neptune

Youth-directed efforts of the Pentagon . . . are really intended to teach them to think conservatively and turn them into loyal, obedient followers of authority.

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On the treatment of Native Americans: "Fortunately for the Army, the government practice of pushing the Indians farther west and then wiping them out was carried out successfully." 3rd-year Army JROTC.

On religion: "Take the religion you know best, for instance. It speaks of human brotherhood. It speaks of one God who is the Father of all mankind. . . . [T]he idea of one Universal Father is stressed." 2nd-year Air Force JROTC.

On sexism and affirmative action: "Some common forms of conscious sexism are . . . assigning women to jobs because they are women rather than because they are qualified." 2nd-year Air Force JROTC.

On gun control: "Modern advocates of gun control, registration, and the banning of gun ownership should at least be aware that their efforts, well-intentioned as they may be, are probably unconstitutional." *Careers in Aerospace*, Air Force JROTC.

On the U.S. government's civil rights and foreign policy record: "Today, many

nations have governments that oppress their own people and threaten to conquer others by force. The U.S. government has always sought to safeguard liberty for all as outlined in the Constitution." 1st-year Navy JROTC.

On leadership: "Leadership is an art, gift or science by which a person can direct the thoughts, plans, and actions of others in order to command their obedience, respect, confidence, and loyal cooperation. . . . Obedience is the most important of the attitudes that good leaders should strive to instill in their personnel." 3rd-year Navy JROTC.

What Is Being Done to Oppose JROTC


These textbooks and the other youth-directed efforts of the Pentagon clearly seek to do more than interest young people in enlisting. They are really intended to teach them to think conservatively and turn them into loyal, obedient followers of authority—a prospect that should concern every progressive social change activist,

regardless of the issues that immediately concern them.

Fortunately, there is a small but growing grassroots movement to counter and resist the military's influence on young people. Unlike the war resistance movement of the 1960s and early 1970s, which focused most of its attention on keeping individuals from being drafted, the current movement is using organizing approaches which display a deeper understanding of the impact of militarism and its relationship to social status. For example, more attention is being paid to how race, class, gender and other factors influence an individual's attitude toward enlistment. A variety of other issues are also being raised, including homophobia, which is reinforced in schools by the military's presence, and the quality of the educational system, which is degraded when local tax money is diverted to help subsidize JROTC.

The types of groups doing youth and anti-militarism work vary, as do their methods. There are young people organizing among their peers, and there are older activists seeking access to schools to share

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ILLEGITIMATE AUTHORITY
Funding social change since 1967

For information and grant guidelines,
write to: Resist, 259 Elm St., Suite 201,
Somerville, MA 02144
resistinc@igc.apc.org

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information with students. Those involved include a racially and ethnically diverse pool of military veterans, high school students, feminists, college students and parents.

Acknowledging the economic pressure which pushes many people toward the military, the approach of some organizations has been to research and present concrete alternatives to young people, such as skills training, college financing and community service. Literature, speakers and videos are also being used to educate youth about the realities of military life and war. In some cases, counter-recruitment groups are promoting the concept of careers in peacemaking and social change as an alternative and using it to encourage greater youth activism. Multimedia computer software has been produced which combines all of these elements and is being distributed to community groups, libraries and schools.

Since school outreach is a major focus of the Pentagon, activists trying to counter the military are seeking equal access to school classrooms, counseling offices, career centers, bulletin boards and career and college fairs. Other activities include leafleting outside schools, placing ads in student newspapers and organizing at the school board level to oppose programs like JROTC. Some groups are working with community agencies and youth groups or sponsoring summer youth camps which promote non-militaristic values.

Organizing is going on in most states and can be found in urban, suburban and rural communities. Some of the active grassroots groups, many of whom have received grants from RESIST, include:

Houston Committee for Youth and Non-military Opportunities, a Texas group which now distributes alternative literature in 50 middle and secondary schools and is planning other types of outreach in the future.

Culver City Community Network in California, which is organizing around JROTC and seeking equal access to local schools.

Peace and Justice Youth Outreach Project in Oakland, California, a youth-run organization which does school presentations and other activities, including a summer day camp.

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which helped defeat a JROTC proposal, sponsors an annual summer youth camp, and is discussing a local campaign for a day at school

Activists trying to counter the military are seeking equal access to school classrooms, counseling offices, career centers, bulletin boards and career and college fairs.



Materials like these are distributed in schools by Project YANO to counter military recruiting and promote careers in peacemaking. *Photo courtesy of Project YANO*

without recruiters.

Students for Discrimination-free Schools in Lincoln, Nebraska, a new local coalition of high school organizations which is circulating petitions to ban recruiters from Lincoln-area schools.

Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which has, among other things, succeeded in stopping Army recruiting van visits to Twin Cities schools and is now assisting counter-militarism efforts statewide.

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Project YANO) and Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD), two groups in San Diego County, California, which have done extensive, multi-level school access work and produced organizing tools used by others nationally, including Project YANO's computer software, "Choices."

A few national organizations are also supporting this work, such as the American Friends Service Committee, Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors

(CCCCO), and War Resisters League. Some of the national groups also have special youth components, like CCCCO's Student Committee Resisting Enlistment and Militarism (SCREAM) and the War Resisters League's Youth Peace program.

Major Organizing Hurdle—and Key to Social Change

One of the biggest challenges for this work is overcoming the submissive attitude toward the military that is embedded in our social psyche. Civilian politicians are reluctant to deny the Department of Defense anything it wants, and institutions like our schools automatically assume that anything endorsed by the Pentagon—even weapons training conducted in high school JROTC classes—must be legitimate and beneficial for their students. And even though it is public knowledge that the military has abused its personnel and wasted countless lives and resources, there are still plenty of individuals willing and ready to

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don uniforms and snap into formation the moment they hear a bugle call.

For generations people have been socialized to accept this mode of thinking, and it is doubtful it will ever change significantly unless and until the conditioning process is interrupted. The process starts with the values instilled in people at an early age, which is precisely the reason why both the military and the conservative religious right are working hard to increase their influence over the educational system.

It is also the reason why those who are serious about advancing progressive

causes must pay more attention to children and young people and work purposefully to promote the teaching of alternative, non-militaristic values. Coupled with this is the need to encourage and support greater youth activism.

Some social change organizations, and a few supportive foundations like Resist, do include youth work in their agendas. But not nearly enough groups are paying sufficient attention to this strategic issue. With progressive activists facing so many urgent challenges from the political right, adding this level of work might not seem easy. But the long-term health and strength

of progressive organizations and the prospects for bringing about substantive social change are very much dependent on it.

Rick Jahnkow, a social change activist since 1968, currently works for Project YANO and COMD in San Diego County, CA, which enjoys the dubious distinction of having the nation's highest total Pentagon payroll. Both Project YANO and COMD have received grants from RESIST. For a list of organizing resources, contact: Project YANO, P.O. Box 230157, Encinitas, CA 92023.

DC SCAR Confronts Racism

Youth Activists Learn to Carry on the Legacy of Paul Robeson

DOUG CALVIN

An elderly woman, a retired ballet dancer, asked "That isn't the Paul Robeson I know, is it?" "Sure is," I replied with a smile. The conversation then turned to her memories of traveling aboard a merchant marine ship in the Mediterranean during the Spanish Civil War, McCarthyism, and the poetry of dance. Days earlier, as part of a diversity training for 600 high school students sponsored by the District of Columbia Student Coalition Against Racism (DC SCAR), we posed the question, "Who was Paul Robeson?" No one knew. As a matter of fact, not one student could define what apartheid meant either.

That lack of knowledge was quickly overcome. By the end of the four sessions—after several hours of facilitating a veritable buzz of voices—most of the students felt kinship with Paul Robeson's legacy of arts-activism. More importantly, they had also brain-stormed immediate ways to stimulate dialogue among their peers to address racial and ethnic tensions at their school. The students also learned the meaning of words such as apartheid, epithets, anti-Semitism, and homophobia. DC SCAR's visit was sponsored by the school's multi-cultural club, a vibrant group of energetic teens. We had all grown together over the course of the training. We knew that some of these kids will be organizers for years to come: it shines in their bright faces.

The diversity training program is one of the projects DC SCAR has been engaged in over our 14-year history as an anti-apartheid, anti-racism coalition. We put our ideas into action, from running a 10-day nonviolence leadership summer program for

Paul Robeson Campaign

Early last year, DC SCAR launched the ongoing "Paul Robeson Campaign for Racial and Ethnic Harmony." We want to be sure students and non-students alike will celebrate the anniversary of Paul's 100th

"... for all oppressed peoples, so much depends on the course which the young generations take—their early involvement in the struggle for freedom. . . ."
Paul Robeson, 1953

teens, to doing workshops and training, to working with volunteers and community coalitions, to traveling extensively to speak with people and organizing an international groundbreaking project. We reflected on the previous year's accomplishments: fund raising efforts garnered support for program and part-time positions; dialogue and strategies stretched across an almost dizzying array of organizers, allies, former SCAR members, new and old friends. It was especially inspiring to see and hear about the level of youth mobilization in California and the leadership of the Chicano youth. We put in a lot of road time, crisscrossing parts of the country, and traveling much farther still on the Internet.

birthday in 1998, so we started early. Plus we want to learn everything we can about Robeson ourselves.

October 1996 saw the kickoff week of activities. Young organizers across North America, Europe and Africa invoked Paul Robeson's legacy to help stimulate outreach and dialogue. Events ranged from forums in Ghana, conferences in Los Angeles, demonstrations in Berlin and New York, many film showings, teach-ins, art openings, musical and poetry events, urban non-violence initiatives, community service, and more in many communities. Subjects tackled included black-Jewish relations, ethnic strife in African countries,

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police violence against people of color in Germany and New York City, women's leadership, and other topics related to Robeson's life and legacy. Most of all, a lot of people were learning about each other. The campaign will continue to grow through April 1998, the centennial of Paul Robeson's birth.

The level of interest and enthusiasm underscores the necessity and importance of just this kind of approach—of solidarity, dialogue and collaboration—for youth organizers and their communities today. Paul Robeson was part of a legacy that is very much alive and well today.

Why Paul Robeson?

The enormous and diverse talent of Paul Robeson offers a tremendous model of an artist-activist. His experiences, particularly from the 1920s to the 1950s, weave through many different and difficult struggles in organizing, setting the stage for the later civil rights and anti-apartheid movements. As an activist, artist, and athlete Robeson's accomplishments endured despite being blacklisted by the far right. Paul Robeson is an inspiring role model whose story is indelibly linked to the aspirations and struggles of millions of people throughout this century.

We felt it was equally important to engage a wide variety of youth groups in a dialogue to examine all of our struggles around racism, ethnicity and human rights internationally and in our communities. Young people interested in addressing these issues can learn much from their peers. Young organizers, educators, independent media, artists and musicians responded to the Robeson Campaign with enthusiasm and in great numbers.

Because of his outspoken solidarity with all oppressed people, the United States government subjected Robeson to smear campaigns, unemployment and even revoked his passport for eight years in the 1950s. In his later years, unbowed and unbroken, Robeson gained respect and recognition within the U.S. as a freedom fighter, which had long been the case internationally. The vibrancy of today's youth movements reflect this legacy of cultural activism.

Fourteen years after its founding as an anti-apartheid and anti-racism coalition, DC SCAR keeps rolling along. Like Robeson, its story is found in unity between peoples,

places, and history. Generations of organizers have worked in coalition to topple South African apartheid, challenge racism, educate and act upon their principles. Some of the most experienced and dynamic youth organizers of the 1980s and 1990s share common ground in the history of DC SCAR. It is a vibrant example that multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-generational coalitions work.

We encourage readers to pass this along and help spread the word. Organize an event around Paul Robeson and youth activism. Let us know if you're coming into town—visitors and volunteers are always

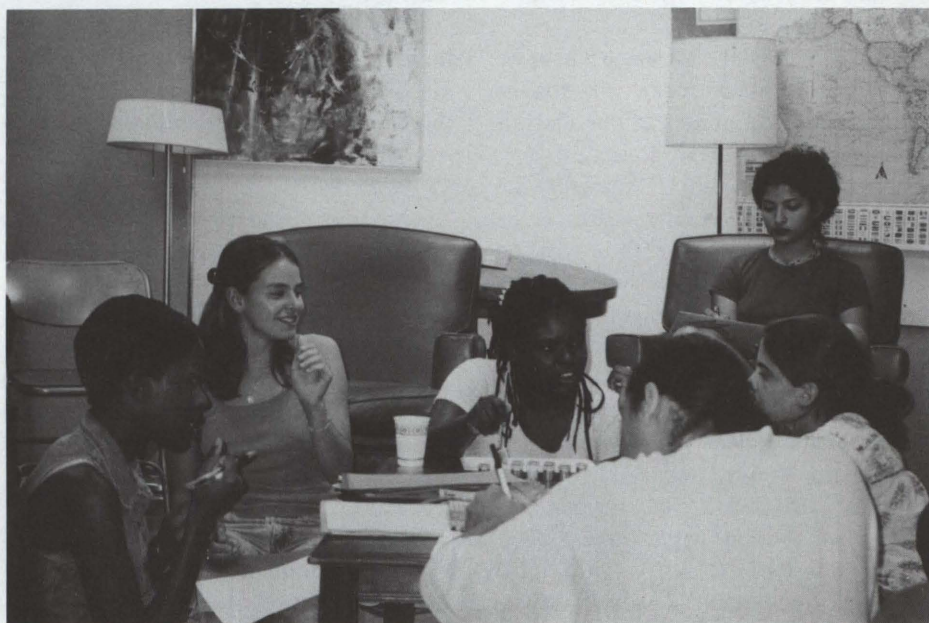
welcome. We still lack many of the resources that we need to keep the momentum up, let alone rise to meet the great organizing potential. Yet we are propelled by the model of Paul Robeson to continue working for racial and ethnic harmony.

Doug Calvin is Associate Director of DC SCAR, where he has been since 1990.

DC SCAR most recently received a RESIST grant in 1996. For more information, contact DC SCAR, PO Box 18291, Washington DC 20036; 202/310-2930; email dcscar@jgc.apc.org.



Above: DC SCAR members take a break during the annual Anacostia River Cleanup. Below: Participants at the youth leadership program learn how to strategize for social change. Photos courtesy of DC SCAR



Community Organizing With SOUL

Training a New Generation of Activists and Leaders

RONA FERNANDEZ AND
HARMONY GOLDBERG

The Summer of Unity and Liberation (SOUL) is a community organizer training program for young people—especially young people of color and young women. SOUL was designed to teach us the skills we need to survive and thrive in our communities in these times of increasing inequality and rising racism. As young people, we have the right and the responsibility to use our energy and visions to strengthen and organize our communities. But our generation has in many cases been left without the tools we need to carry out this work. SOUL was created by young people for young people as a space to develop our political vision and community organizing skills, with a special emphasis on the unique problems we face.

SOUL formed in 1995 during the anti-affirmative action push of the regents of the University of California. SOUL works to help student organizers overcome some of the difficulties we encountered in our work, such as: how to define what “organizing” really means; a lack of tools for bringing different communities together in a common struggle; disrespect for the leadership of young women and people of color; vague visions for social transformations; and tenuous relationships with community organizations.

We created SOUL as a space where we could combine our everyday work “on the ground” with a deepening of our analysis of the world in which we live. Last year, most of our interns were UC students who worked with Californians for Justice, the grassroots organization that worked against the anti-affirmative action Proposition 209 in low-income communities of color throughout California. Most of our study groups focused on the important lessons of the Civil Rights Movement, particularly on the radical community work of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). We had the honor of meeting and working with former SNCC organizers Chude Allen and Phil Hutchings, who organized a dinner/discus-

sion between former SNCC members and SOUL participants. Meeting these seasoned activists and organizers helped us to place our generation in the historical continuum of freedom fighters in the United States.

As a result of our organizing and political education work, SOUL has developed



Members of Summer of Unity and Liberation seek to build a consolidated core of young organizers to carry the progressive movement through these difficult times towards freedom and justice. *Photo courtesy of SOUL*

three basic political beliefs:

- * All oppressed people need to work together against the systems that hold us all down.

- * We can't only work to reform the system; the system itself is the problem. We need to create a vision and a plan for our liberation, for self-determination and for a complete transformation of our society.

- * Oppressed people need to be empowered to liberate themselves. Young people have a responsibility to take up this work.

This year, SOUL interns will work on issues of welfare and economic justice. Twelve young people—half college students and half high school students—from the Bay Area will work full-time for eight weeks with local community-based organizations: Asian Immigrant Women's Advocates (AIWA), the General Assistance Rights Union (GARU), Californians for Justice (CFJ), Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS), and the Women's Eco-

nomic Agenda Project (WEAP). Our interns will engage daily in intensive contact work with the people directly impacted by the welfare “reform” crisis. Some of the work they will do includes organizing workfare union drives, conducting educational sessions on welfare cuts, and talking one-on-one with unemployed people to find out

what kinds of jobs they think our society should create.

SOUL's political education component will focus on the impact of globalization on our everyday lives, on multiracial movements for economic and racial justice, and on concrete skills-building. By engaging issues on both a working level and a theoretical level, we will teach each other how to develop a revolutionary analysis of the economic and political

system we live in, as well as learn important lessons from successful movements for social change. We know it's not enough to just train ourselves in practical organizing skills; we also need to shape a concrete vision and plan for our self-determination and liberation. This is what SOUL is all about—nurturing a new generation of organizers and leaders to bring about lasting change.

Rona Fernandez and Harmony Goldberg, founders of SOUL, began organizing at UC Berkeley against the Regents' decision to eliminate affirmative action in the University of California system. Rona works on issues of youth and media access, and Harmony organizes with UCB students for educational equality. SOUL received a grant from RESIST this year. For more information, contact SOUL, PO Box 4449, Berkeley, CA 94704.

What Now for Youth Organizing?

Progressive Youth Organizing and the Right Wing

JEAN HARDISTY

The right has long understood the importance of winning over young people. Its systematic recruitment and grooming of conservative campus activists could accurately be described as a courtship. The right's infrastructure of movement organizations has funded not only campus organizing, but the subsequent careers of conservative students who want to become movement professionals. Right wing youth activists are nurtured and cultivated like rare flowers, though they are, in fact, no longer rare.

The success of the right in recruiting young people is a buffer against the aging of its movement leadership. It is also a buffer against any future waning of the right's dominance. The right has always understood that investing in youth is their movement's social security plan.

For over 15 years, progressive youth on campus have been put on the defensive time and time again by right wing campus newspapers (with funding and articles supplied by the larger, off-campus movement) and by right wing student groups. Using words and images designed to shock, and sometimes using physical violence, these right wing students are applauded by their [right wing] movement elders, published by movement presses, and assured of movement jobs. This activism finds an increasingly hospitable environment on campus, as the country moves to the right and students grow up experiencing liberalism as a discredited, out-of-favor ideology. Faced with a tightening job market and the pressures of an unpredictable economy, young people are less open to principles of social justice.

Despite these barriers, students and other young people have organized around progressive issues—most notably in their opposition to apartheid in South Africa and, more recently, their protests against the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 in California. There are many terrific progressive projects and organizations that are driven by youth or that target them. Lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender young people of color

are particularly active, taking the lead in much of the thinking on gender identity and on mixed race identity. In fact, queer youth have blazed the trail in youth organizing for the last several years.

Funding Political Youth Projects

Liberal funders and adult activists understand the importance of support for young people, but at present most of that support is targeted to keeping teens off the streets, preventing teenage pregnancy, or saving teens from drugs and gangs. These projects are not seen as "political," but rather as an extension of the social safety net. Much of the more political work done by and with young people is underfunded.

It is crucial that the progressive movement allocate more of its scarce resources to develop future leaders and activists. Young women of all races and male students of color are being harmed by attacks on affirmative action, poor students and immigrant students are losing access to scholarship money to attend college, and increased living costs make it more difficult for students to work as volunteers in movement organizations. These material

conditions are more daunting than those faced by the campus activists of the 1960s and 1970s. There is no Vietnam War to catalyze students, no civil rights or Black Power movement to draw out their idealism, and no Great Society programs where students could find work after graduation.

Only a commitment of resources by every progressive organization will make it possible for large numbers of young people to find their voices, start their own organizations, and get the experience they need to move into leadership positions within the progressive movement. We cannot expect young people to buck the conservative tide without encouragement and concrete assistance from the movement that needs them and would like to claim them.

Jean Hardisty is Executive Director of the Political Research Associates (PRA). The above is excerpted from a longer article entitled: "What Now? Strategic Thinking About the Progressive Movement and the Right," which appeared in the Spring 1997 issue of The Public Eye (Vol. XI, No. 1). For more information, contact PRA, 120 Beacon Street, Suite 202, Somerville, MA 02143-4304.

GRANTS

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Rising Generation Represent

*c/o Quabbin Mediation Project
PO Box 544
Athol, MA 01331*

Rising Generation Represent is a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic youth group that deals with issues of racism, classism, ageism and sexism in the Northampton community. The group formed in 1996 as a project of Quabbin Mediation, which mediates disputes, teaches violence prevention and creative problem solving. The name means: Rising—to rise above violence and to rise up and gain power and respect in the community; Genera-

tion—teens and young adults; Represent—to stand up for beliefs and to be unified in working for a more positive future. The group educates teens on issues of race, sex, class and age so they can understand their anger and direct it positively to undoing "isms" in the community and themselves; they also teach leadership, mediation and teaching skills, and help "at risk" teens find jobs.

RESIST awarded RGR a \$1,000 grant to develop and implement a conflict resolution curriculum appropriate for young people of color, primarily Asian and poor youth between the ages 12 and 19. The RESIST grant will support a large gathering for all participants at the end of the ten-month workshop series.

GRANTS

In each issue of the Newsletter we highlight a few recent RESIST grants to groups around the United States. This month, we feature grants awarded at our June Board meeting. For more details about these grants, please write to the organizations themselves at the addresses listed below.

Fuerza Unida

3946 South Zarzamora
San Antonio, TX 78225

Fuerza Unida was founded in 1990 when Levi Strauss and Co. moved their San Antonio Dockers plant to Costa Rica. The relocation left 1,150 Mexican and Mexican-American women garment workers without employment, and without provision for retraining, among other injustices. Taking the name Fuerza Unida (United Strength), over 300 women organized a boycott of Levi's products and have been working for a just settlement for the past six years. The group is currently working to broaden their vision and purpose to seek justice for all unemployed working women.

A \$1,000 grant from RESIST will support "W.A.G.E. (Winning Action for Gender Equity) - San Antonio Women in Crisis," which will survey and then

address the needs and issues of unemployed working women. Specifically, the grant will be allocated towards a week-long workshop to train the organization's core leadership in interview and surveying skills.

Pintig Cultural Group

5553 North Magnolia #3E
Chicago, IL 60640

Pintig Cultural Group was founded in 1991 to confront the complex issues faced by the Filipino-American community in Chicago through progressive Filipino arts and culture. The group promotes cultural work as a tool for social change, particularly by raising political and social consciousness and community activism among Filipinos and Filipino Americans through creative educational-historical activities. Pintig has launched four major productions in its "Cycle of Identity" series, all of which provided a venue for discussion of issues such as immigrant rights, globalization, subjugation of women, homosexuality, cultural identity, economic inequality, environmental degradation, and freedom from foreign domination.

A \$1,000 RESIST grant supports the

organization's 1997 project, "Breaking Barriers: Interrogating One Hundred Years of Colonialism," which includes analysis of historical materials and oral histories, educational outreach workshops and the production of two plays, one of which was performed during the 1997 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Pride Series.

Sweatshop Watch

720 Market Street, Fifth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Members of Sweatshop Watch first began working together in an informal coalition in 1994 to coordinate efforts to pass a Joint Liability Bill in the California Legislature, which would have held both manufacturers and retailers accountable to the workers who sewed their clothes. In 1995, Sweatshop Watch was founded when coalition members recognized the value of working together in a formal coalition. The group launched its first campaign, the Retailer Accountability Campaign, against prominent retailers who received and sold clothes sewn in the El Monte sweatshop (where Thai and Latino workers were forbidden to leave the compound and forced to work for \$1.60/hour). Sweatshop Watch asked El Monte to adopt a Code of Conduct honoring labor, health and safety laws to protect workers. All of the group's projects, decisions and organizing efforts are informed by the voices, needs and life experiences of the workers who labor in sweatshops.

A \$1,000 RESIST grant will support the group's Consumer Education Project, which includes the development and publication of a quarterly newsletter that informs consumers about campaigns against sweatshops in the garment industry, unionizing efforts, labor violations, and policy developments that affect the lives of garment workers. RESIST's grant will be used to print the two remaining newsletters this year for its 10,000 worldwide supporters and members.

Join the RESIST Pledge Program

We'd like you to consider becoming a RESIST Pledge.

Pledges account for over 30% of our income.

By becoming a pledge, you help guarantee RESIST a fixed and dependable source of income on which we can build our grant-making program. In return, we will send you a monthly pledge letter and reminder along with your newsletter. We will keep you up-to-date on the groups we have funded and the other work being done at RESIST.

So take the plunge and become a RESIST Pledge! We count on you, and the groups we fund count on us.

Resist • 259 Elm Street • Suite 201 • Somerville • MA • 02144

Yes! I'll become a RESIST Pledge.

I'll send you my pledge of \$ _____
every month/two months/
quarter/six months (circle one).

[] Enclosed is an initial pledge contribution of \$ _____.

[] I can't join the pledge program now, but here's a contribution of \$ _____ to support your work.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

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